



Just relaxing: Glenard Ullman relaxes with his dog, Smoky, in front of his home, which was built in 1908

as the Kolberg school. Ullman also owns the community's baseball diamond.

Baseball is the big draw here

By Gary Dodge

Press-Gazette

KOLBERG — Baseball brings this Door County community to life every summer.

"That's the only thing that puts Kolberg on the map," said the Rev. Lester Fritz, pastor of Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, County D.

Press-Gazette photos by Sandee Gerbers

About 200 people attend each Kolberg baseball home

game, Glenard Ullman, 8646 County D, said.

He owns the baseball diamond behind his house — a renovated one-room school built in 1908 — and leases it to the Kolberg amateur baseball club.

"Baseball season is one of the big events," said Ullman, 77.

Kolberg is a quiet unincorporated community near Forestville in the town of Brussels. Today's slow pace contrasts the early days.

One of Ullman's 1910 postcards shows people and horse-drawn buggies crowded in the street.

Children went to Kolberg District 3, a schoolhouse for grades 1-8. It closed when the Southern Door School District formed in 1962.

Businessman C.R. Guth owned several businesses, including the general store built in 1903. Kolberg also had a cheese factory and blacksmith shop.

"It was booming then," said Martha



Good old days: Arvilla Maedke talks about her church's centennial and the history of Kolberg.

Wiese, 92, a native now living in Algoma. Her family once owned the blacksmith shop.

Area people pitched in to build the Lutheran church in 1908, she said. The church's name is inscribed in German on the front wall.

The Kolberg Klub, the only tavern here, closed in 1987, Sue LeRoy, 8672 County D, said. She and her husband, Dennis, operated the tavern from 1983 to

1985 and then rented it out for another two years.

The tavern was a Sunday gathering spot for residents, she said.

When Marvin Matzke, 64, 8548 County D, was younger, he joined others who went to Algoma and Sturgeon Bay for 25-cent movies and to dances every Saturday night in Algoma, Maplewood, Sturgeon Bay and Brussels.

Families got together for birthdays and to help each other with farm work, Wiese said.

"You grew up with your people," Arvilla Maedke, 72, 981 Kolberg Road, said. "Years ago, they had a hard life. People helped each other."

Laura Matzke, 61, Marvin's wife, said modern farm equipment eliminated the need for farmers to help each other when they built barns or harvested crops.

Residents are not sure when the community was founded. Marvin Matzke said his family farm has been in Kolberg for 118 years.

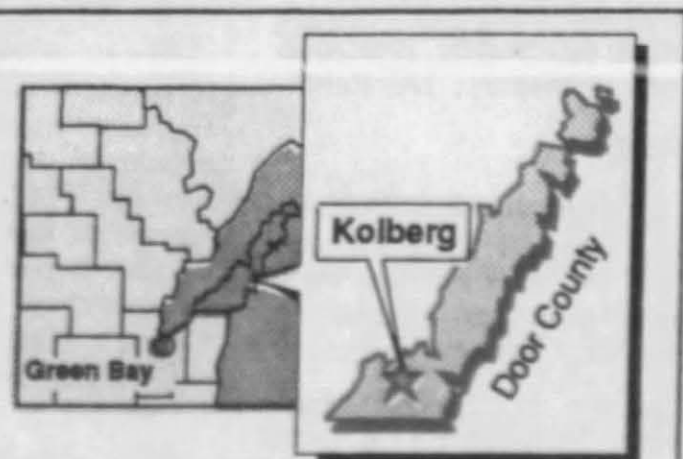
Early residents wanted to name the community Guthville after Guth. But he declined the honor and instead offered Kolberg after Kolberg, Germany, Fritz said.

Visitors from Kolberg, Germany visited once, Matzke said.

■ **Next week:** Scarboro in Kewaunee County



Old and new: Marvin Matzke positioned a modern range next to the wood burning stove in his Kolberg kitchen.



The Kolberg file

- **Population:** About 20
- **Name:** The community was named for Kolberg, Germany
- **History:** Turn-of-the-century buildings such as the general store, one-room schoolhouse, Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church and the blacksmith shop still stand.